

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 SAM-01 /072 W

----- 107701

R 290415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 705

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, MY

SUBJ: SABAH DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KL 4313

1. IT WAS REVEALED TODAY THAT SABAH GOVERNOR TUN MOHAMED FUAD (DONALD STEPHENS) SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE MALAYSIAN KING ON JUL 23. IN A STATEMENT DATED JUL 28 FROM KOTA KINABALU FUAD/STEPHENS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS JOINING BERJAYA, THE NEW SABAH POLITICAL PARTY OPPOSING SABAH STRONGMAN CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA; HE ALSO ACCUSED MUSTAPHA OF PLOTTING TO TAKE SABAH OUT OF MALAYSIA AND FORM A NEW STATE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MINDANAO, PALAWAN, AND THE SULU ISLANDS.

2. MEANWHILE, ONE OF BERJAYA'S ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBERS

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FORMER SABAH SOCIAL WELFARE DATUK YASSIN ANNOUNCED THAT

HE IS QUITTING BERJAYA AND RETIRING FROM POLITICS. YASSIN HAS BEEN UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM THE MUSTAPHA FORCES, AND HIS RESIGNATION CONFIRMS THAT MUSTAPHA STILL PACKS CONSIDERABLE CLOUT. A RELIABLE KL PRESS SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE BERJAYA FOLLOWING IN THE 36-MAN SABAH STATE ASSEMBLY (32 ELECTED MEMBERS AND 4 APPOINTED) IS NOW DOWN TO FIVE.

3. GIVEN THE ETHNIC HODGE-PODGE WHICH IS SABAH, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL FOLLOWINGS PREDICTION IS A HAZARDOUS BUSINESS, BUT THE MUSTAPHA LOYALISTS OBVIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE IN A STRONG POSITION IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY AND THEY HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THE ASSEMBLY WILL MEEET ON AUG 11. THE MEETING IS TO DISCUSS A MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MUSTAPHA GOVERNMENT AND TO PROPOSE THAT "WITHIN THE SAFEGUARDS AND AUTONOMY SABAH ENJOYS TODAY AS PART OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA, NO QUESTION OF SECESSION AND SEPARATION OF SABAH FROM MALAYSIA WILL EVER BE RAISED."

4. IN FACT, WHATEVER MUSTAPHA'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN HIS HOLD ON THE SABAH GOVERNMENT ANY SECESSION IDEAS HE MAY HAVE ENTERTAINED APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY ABORTED. BOTH MUSTAPHA'S SUPPORTERS AND THE BERJAYA MEN ARE NOW PROCLAIMING UNDYING LOYALTY TO MALAYSIA.  
DILLON

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## Message Attributes

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